



A Superb Amplifier from Sansui

The Equipment: Sansui BA-2000 power amplifier in metal case. Dimensions: 18½ by 6¼ inches (front panel); 15 inches deep plus clearance for controls and connections. Price: \$850. Warranty: "limited," two years parts and labor. Manufacturer: Sansui Electric Co., Japan; U.S. distributor: Sansui Electronics Corp., 55-11 Queens Blvd., Woodside, N.Y. 11377.

Comment: Power amps are rarely birds of beauty. They have few (or no) controls to engross the eye and just sit there as unadorned hulks of potential power waiting to be unleashed into your speakers. Sansui's BA-2000 certainly creates the visual image of latent energy—an image accentuated by the eerie green glow emanating from its large (3½-inch) output meters.

Dual scales, calibrated in watts and dB, indicate the effective power being delivered to an 8-ohm load. Calibrations run from a low of 0.05 watt (-13 dBW) to the rated 110 watts (20½ dBW), with levels above that shown in red. The corresponding dB range runs from -34 to +3 with the zero reference at 110 watts. A set of three buttons controls the meter sensitivity in 10:1 steps, giving effective calibration down to 0.0005 watt (-33 dBW).

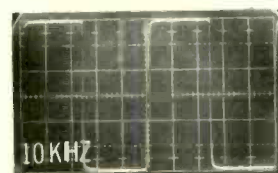
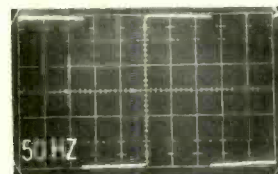
The front panel also holds a dual-color POWER PROTECTOR indicator, which glows red for a few seconds after the power is applied—or whenever the internal protective circuitry is activated. In normal operation the color is a comforting green. A pair of pin-type input jacks, one set of spring-loaded speaker outputs (accepting bared or tinned wires), a fuse, and a ground plug make up the rear panel complement.

Readers occasionally appear to consider lab data a substitute for critical listening. This hardly is the case. Equipment—particularly an amplifier—that fares poorly in the laboratory almost invariably reveals its imperfections in the listening room if you know what to listen for. Indeed, that is one of the major reasons for conducting technical tests. But occasionally critical listening tests do show up sonic imperfections that were not uncovered in the laboratory—a good reason for audition. The human ear and brain together are a marvelous critical tool. We may react to

subtle differences in sound character without ever being able to put our finger on just what they are.

As for the Sansui BA-2000, the data from CBS Technology Center reveal extraordinarily fine performance. The distortion components at any power level are practically nonexistent. It is hard to imagine how any human could hear 0.003% THD—harmonics some 90 dB below the fundamental. The noise floor is even further down, at some 110 dB below full output, or barely over a billionth of a watt. The frequency response is virtually ruler-flat over what is generally considered to be the range of human hearing: a mere ½ dB down at 20 Hz and 20 kHz and only 1½ dB down at 100 kHz. The square-wave response approaches perfection, which testifies to excellent phase linearity, and the damping factor is sufficiently high; to have it higher would be to gild the lily (and perhaps to increase the transient intermodulation).

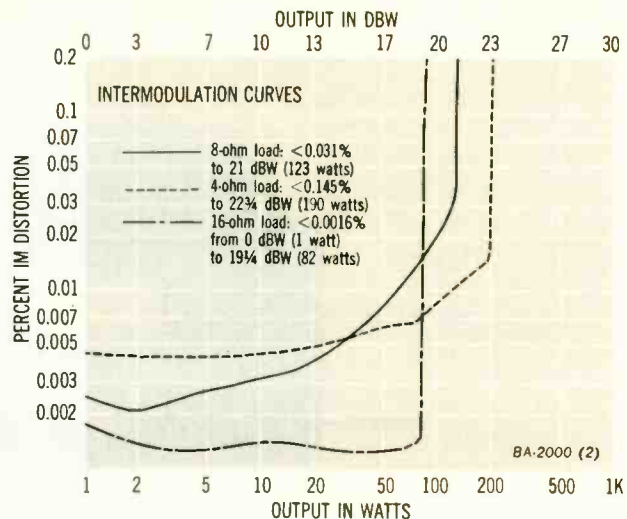
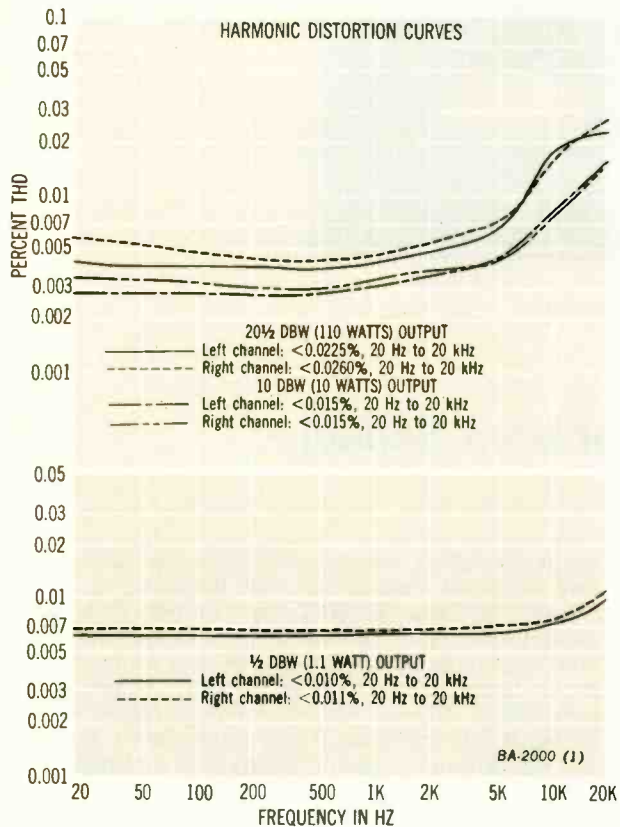
Clearly, the Sansui BA-2000 is about as close to the ideal as one can measure. Do these technological "virtues" show up in listening? You bet they do! This amplifier is utterly clean, transparent, and quiet. It just isn't there. As far as we can tell, it is like an optically perfect magnifying lens. The lower registers are extremely tight—indicating good speaker damping—while the transient response is ex-



Square-wave response

traordinary. To what can we attribute this sonic excellence? The Sansui literature would lead us to believe that it is the three-stage Darlington-configuration output stage, driven by a high-gain, high-slew-rate front end using a two-transistor "current mirror." Well, perhaps. Frankly, we don't care: The excellence is there.

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Sansui BA-2000 Amp Additional Data

Power output at clipping (channels driven simultaneously)
 L ch 20½ dBW (120 watts) for 0.25% THD
 R ch 20¼ dBW (122 watts) for 0.27% THD

Frequency response +0, -¼ dB, 10 Hz to 25 kHz

Input characteristics (for rated output at full gain)

Sensitivity	Noise	S/N ratio
1 V	-89½ dBW	110 dB

Damping factor at 1 kHz 67